

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hand held torque meter for sensing the torque required to axially move a threaded closure relative to the threaded neck of an associated container comprising:

a first section graspable by the hand of a user, including means for displaying a torque measurement;

a second section having ~~means for grasping a removable closure of a~~ a closure gripping device including a depending portion for gripping at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of a threaded closure of an associated container; and

means connecting said first section to said second section, said means including a load cell having an output connected to the displaying means of said first section, whereby the force required to cause movement between a closure and the threaded neck of an associated container produces an output signal from the load cell to the torque displaying means of said first section indicating the torque required to effect a movement of the closure relative to the threaded neck of an associated container.

2. (currently amended) A hand held torque meter as defined in Claim 1 wherein the closure gripping device of said second section includes depending fingers for gripping a the removable closure.

3. (currently amended) A hand held torque meter as defined in Claim 1 [2] wherein said fingers are spaced apart.

4. (original) A hand held torque meter as defined in Claim 3 wherein said fingers are provided with a elastomeric coating.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. A hand held torque meter as defined in Claim 1 [6] wherein the closure gripping device of said second section includes a frusto-conical opening [is frusto-conical in shape].